

Proposed Reissuance of NPDES Permit for Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration , **Development and Production Facilities**

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Dear Colleagues,

Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 issued a proposed action to reissue a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for offshore oil and gas exploration, development and production facilities in federal waters off the coast of Southern California. The public comment period for the proposed general permit will close on February 4, 2013.

The proposed permit would replace the current permit issued in 2004 and would cover 23 offshore oil and gas production platforms including those located in the Santa Barbara Channel and off Points Arguello and Conception. The proposed permit does not authorize discharges from any new offshore platforms and is limited to regulating discharges from existing platforms. The proposed permit is similar to the one issued in 2004, but now incorporates updated discharge limits for produced water as well as new study requirements to evaluate the potential effects of cooling water intake structures at the platforms.

Enclosed please find copies of the proposed permit and fact sheet, along with the Federal Register notice. These documents are also available on EPA's website for review and comment at: http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/npdes/pubnotices.html



ocs-general-permit2012.pdf ocs-general-permit-factsheet-2012.pdf FR Notice.2012.Proposed.Permit.pdf

Regards,

David

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